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AUTHOR Ellis, Rulon; And Others
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ABSTRACT

The League of Schools is a staff development consortium currently consisting of 11 Southeastern Idaho School districts and the College of Education at Idaho State University (ISU). The primary purposes of the League are to provide a structure and process for systematically identifying with specificity school district personnel training needs and the appropriate resources to meet these needs. Equally important is that the process provides the school districts and the College of Education with the information necessary to engage in long range planning as it relates to effectively integrating needs and resources in the area of staff development. School districts and the university work cooperatively to pool resources for staff development. Formal access to the ISU College of Education is available for districts' professional development needs. Technical assistance is also given to school districts in all areas of staff development: long range planning, personnel training, program management, and evaluation. Two attached brochures outline features and organization of the consortium approach to professional development. (JD)

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COLLABORATIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT – A SYSTEM THAT WORKS

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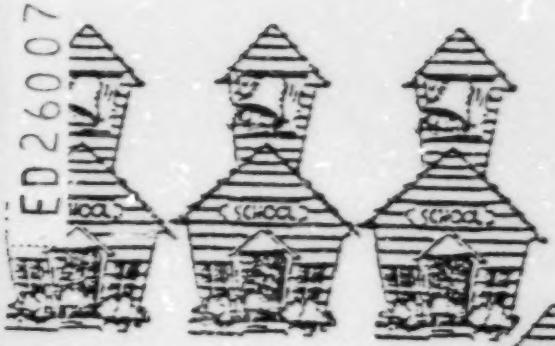
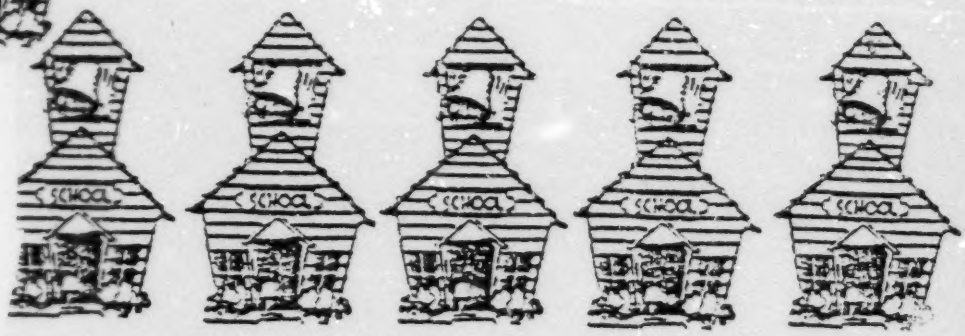


"The League of Schools was developed to address the long-standing concern that 'teacher inservice' practices all too often generated dissatisfaction."



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An interesting and functional approach to the delivery of professional growth services has been organized at Idaho State University and has been in operation since June, 1982. The delivery system is called the League of Schools and it is a staff development consortium currently consisting of eleven Southeastern Idaho school districts and the College of Education. The League of Schools was developed to address the long standing concern that "teacher inservice" practices all too often generated dissatisfaction -- and little improvement in classroom learning. In addressing this very real concern, the primary purposes of the League are to provide a structure and process for systematically identifying with specificity school district personnel training needs and the appropriate resources to meet these needs. Equally important is that the process provides the school districts and the College of Education with the

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information necessary to engage in long range planning as it relates to effectively integrating needs and resources in the area of staff development.

Some data may be useful in illustrating the level of activity in this relatively new enterprise. Some of the school districts and participants cited in the following data did not belong to the League of Schools, but all were handled using League processes and through the League organizational structures. Also there are activities administered through University Continuing Education that are not reflected in this data. During the 1983-84 and the 1984-85 school years the College of Education has provided 98 credit and non-credit workshops and courses involving 34 school districts and affecting approximately 2,600 teachers and administrators. Considering recent educational demands, it might be interesting to point out that of the data provided, above 30 of the courses and workshops were in the areas of computer literacy and reading and these activities involved 560 teachers and administrators.

Nineteen staff development activities were also offered which involved several districts. This is another advantage of the League organizational structure and its associated planning in that common needs across districts can be met by multidistrict delivery of services. This is not only cost effective, but contributes to greater collegiality between districts. As one furtner comment on multidistrict activities, April, 1984 saw selected science faculty from the College of Arts & Sciences working through the League to improve science teachers in Southeastern Idaho. A conference for secondary social science teachers is scheduled for

March, 1985, again a cooperative effort among faculty from the College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Education for the professional development of secondary teachers.

In conclusion, the three of us, representing involved school districts, the College of Education on the Idaho State University campus, and liaison coordination know we are attempting to address and meet the needs in the area of professional development. We are dedicated to the concept of the League of Schools.

Dr. Rulon Ellis, Superintendent
Pocatello School District #25
Pocatello, Idaho

Dr. Richard Sagness, Dean
College of Education
Idaho State University
Pocatello, Idaho

Ms. Joan Scott, Coordinator
League of Schools
College of Education
Idaho State University
Pocatello, Idaho

A CONSORTIUM APPROACH

TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The League of Schools

The League of Schools
College of Education
Box 8059
Idaho State University
Pocatello, Idaho 83209
(208) 236-3202

LEAGUE OF SCHOOLS

I. PURPOSE

To provide a process and vehicle by which the participating school districts and the College of Education (Idaho State University) can mutually benefit from a collaborative arrangement in organizing for staff improvement (assessing needs, prioritizing in-service training, identifying human and material resources, allocating financial resources, delivery of staff improvement programs and evaluating their effectiveness).

II. ASSUMPTIONS

1. That the College and the public schools share a purpose; i.e., both institutions are committed to providing quality education for children. Further, that providing continuing staff development is essential for quality education. Thus, a coalition of the public schools with a training organization has great potential to improve both systems to meet this end.

2. That the broad area of teaching and learning can be best addressed by a coalition of trainers and practitioners working as a team to deal with common concerns; e.g., development of a well articulated strategy to improve discipline.

3. There is a need for closer working relationships and specific organizational structure between school districts and the University to better utilize scarce human, material and financial resouces for the improvement of staff in-service and education in general.

4. That the collaborative relationship between participating public schools and higher education will also strengthen the College faculty and serve as a vehicle to promote change within this body. One outcome may be to aid the IHE in becoming more responsive to the needs of participating schools and school districts. The organization will also provide valuable input into the University training programs for teachers, administrators and other special personnel.

5. That the superintendent, assisted by staff input and assistance from IHE, will be the final decision-maker about the extent and nature of staff development programs to be delivered to the school district.

6. Those individuals receiving the in-service training should have an opportunity to have input into what, who, and how such delivery will be made.

7. That the building level is the most effective level for staff development. A systematic and responsive organizational structure at the district level is also required for an effective staff development program.

8. That there are staff development needs that are common across school district lines and collaborative planning and programming are effective ways of meeting these common needs.

III. BENEFITS DERIVED

1. Districts are provided with technical assistance in all areas of staff development, e.g.; long-range planning, training of personnel, program management, evaluation.

2. Pooling of resources for staff development organization relieves financial strain on districts.

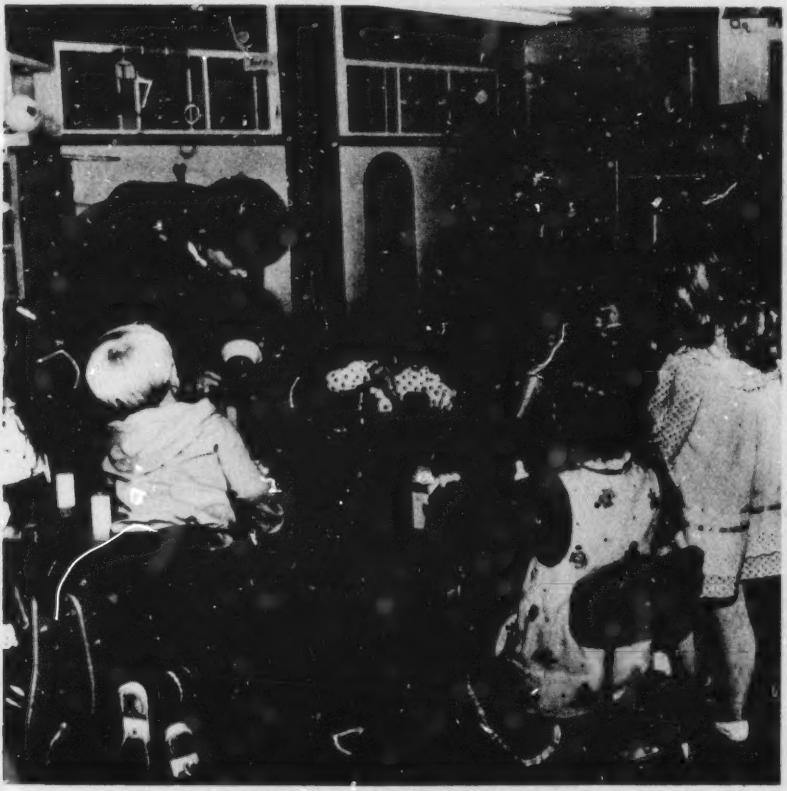
3. Districts are provided with a recognized communication channel to program decision-makers at Idaho State University and provide input to those decisions.

4. The College of Education, Idaho State University, has recognized and formal access to school districts and their professional development needs.

5. The College of Education and its personnel are provided with opportunity for developing and modeling a variety of responses to in-service needs and requests.

6. A permanent system of cooperative in-service planning and delivery has been initiated on a regional basis.

The League of Schools



Regional Cooperative In-Service

A Consortium Approach to Professional Development

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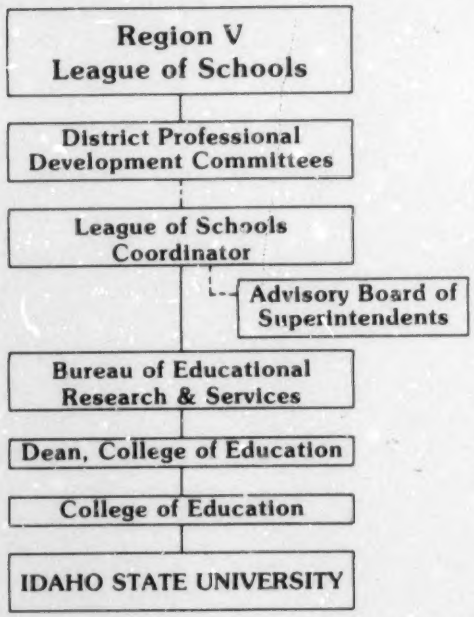
The League of Schools was developed to address the longstanding concern that teacher inservice practices all too often generated dissatisfaction.

Purpose of the league is to provide a process and vehicle by which the participating school districts and the College of Education at Idaho State University can mutually benefit from a collaborative arrangement in organizing for staff improvement (assessing needs, prioritizing inservice training, identifying human and material resources, allocating financial resources, delivery of staff improvement programs and evaluating their effectiveness).

Dr. Richard Sagness, Dean
ISU College of Education



Membership:

* Aberdeen School District #58
* American Falls School District #381
* Blackfoot School District #55
* Marsh Valley School District #21
* North Gem School District #149
* Oneida County School District #351
* Pocatello School District #25
* Preston School District #201
* Snake River School District #52
* Soda Springs School District #150
* Idaho State University

Activities:

* Needs Assessment
* Coursework
* Workshops
* Seminars
* Multi-District Conferences
* Special Information

Jody Scott, Coordinator

Advantages:

* School districts and university working cooperatively
* Pooling of resources for staff development to relieve financial strain on districts
* Formal access for the ISU College of Education to school districts' professional development needs
* Technical assistance for school districts in all areas of staff development: long-range planning, personnel training, program management, evaluation

Computer Workshop for Teachers

The League of Schools is the professional development service of the Idaho State University Bureau of Educational Research and Services. League headquarters are in the bureau which is located in the College of Education Complex at ISU. Jody Scott is League coordinator. Member districts are Marsh Valley, Pocatello, Snake River, Blackfoot, Aberdeen, American Falls, North Gem, Soda Springs, Preston, and Oneida County. The ISU College of Education also is a member.

Membership in the League of Schools is open to school districts which wish to become an active part of the consortium.

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